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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SWEDEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 6 April 1994 addressed to the President of the Security Council from the Chairman of the Council on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Minsk Conference and Minsk Group, Ambassador Jan Eliasson.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for it to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter OSVALD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 6 April 1994 from the Chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Conference and Minsk Group to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to paragraph 8 of United Nations Security Council resolution 884 (1993), I wish to report on the present state of the efforts made by the Minsk Group for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

At the CSCE Council meeting in Rome from 30 November-1 December 1993, the Chairman of the CSCE Council appointed me as the new Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference and of the Minsk Group. I took up this function on 1 February 1994. At that juncture, the "adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993) and 874 (1993)", which was elaborated by the Minsk Group and presented to you in a letter dated 9 November 1993 from the former Chairman of the Minsk Conference (S/26718, annex), had not yet met the approval of all parties.

Intensive military activities resumed in the area of conflict in December 1993. The parties were urged by the Chairman of the CSCE Council, His Excellency Beniamino Andreatta, Foreign Minister of Italy, and others to cease all military activities. However, heavy fighting with a great number of casualties as a result continued through January and most of February. Attempts to establish a lasting cease-fire were unsuccessful.

The Nine of the Minsk Group (the Minsk Group except the parties) held a meeting in Vienna on 4 February, at which the continued work of the Minsk Group was discussed. The Nine agreed with the Minsk Group chairmanship that CSCE and Russian mediation efforts should be as closely integrated as possible.

Between 28 February and 8 March, I visited the region, together with a delegation including a representative of the CSCE Chairman-in-Office. Extensive discussions were held with representatives of the parties, as well as with parliamentarians and religious leaders of the region. A summary of my conclusions from the visit is annexed hereto.

Before and after the visit to the region, I and the Deputy Chairman of the Minsk Group, Ambassador Mossberg, carried out intensive consultations with the parties, members of the Minsk Group and other interested States and organizations. In view of these consultations and the conclusions from the visit, the following line of action will be pursued:

(a) The CSCE negotiation efforts are to be further intensified. This includes a meeting of the Minsk Group in April, preceded by contacts with the parties;

(b) The early integration of all mediation efforts remains crucial. The Deputy Chairman of the Minsk Group has recently participated in talks in Moscow with the parties under the auspices of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian efforts are commendable and it is to be welcomed that CSCE is now

taking part in them. This represents an important step towards the integration of CSCE and Russian mediation efforts;

(c) An early CSCE presence in the region, on a visiting basis, should be established and consultations to this end are to be continued;

(d) The CSCE readiness to deploy monitors it to be enhanced. Concrete steps to this effect are now being taken in Vienna by the CSCE Permanent Committee. Several CSCE member States have already reconfirmed their willingness to provide monitors;

(e) The humanitarian needs in the region are considerable and, although much is being done, further humanitarian assistance is needed. It is important that a positive response is given by the donor community to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Caucasus, due to be launched in the latter half of April 1994.

At the meeting of the CSCE Permanent Committee in Vienna on 17 March, general support was expressed for the line of action outlined above.

An informal meeting of the Minsk Group will be held from 11 to 15 April in Prague. The agenda for this meeting will be based upon the lines of action indicated above.

The readiness expressed by the Secretary-General to assist CSCE to the extent possible is warmly appreciated. I shall continue to inform the Security Council and the Secretariat of the further work within the Minsk process.

(Signed) Jan ELIASSON
Ambassador
Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference
and Minsk Group

Enclosure

Conclusions from visit by the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk process to the region of conflict

1. The fighting that has taken place in the region since the end of last year has been very costly in human terms. The military front lines, however, appear to have remained more or less unchanged. In the absence of a cease-fire, the present phase of the conflict could be described as a war of attrition.

2. New refugees or displaced persons have been added in the last few months to those already existing. According to estimates made by humanitarian organizations, the total number of refugees and displaced persons in the region could be as high as 1 million. Most of them receive some humanitarian assistance, but the needs are considerable.

3. All parties agree that no military solution can be found to the conflict and that every effort must be made to establish a basis for a durable political solution. Mutual mistrust and lack of confidence are deeply rooted and the need for confidence-building measures is urgent. On several of the crucial questions, the positions of the parties remain far apart. On others, some positive signs may be distinguished.

4. The search for a peaceful solution to the conflict in and around Nagorny Karabakh should be based on principles recognized by the United Nations and CSCE. The timetable of urgent steps elaborated within the framework of the Minsk Group remains on the table. A step-by-step solution should be explored with links between each step ensuring that the parties have a view of what the next steps will entail.

5. All parties welcome intensified CSCE efforts and urge CSCE to reinvigorate its role and that of the Minsk Group in the peace process. They all underline that a negotiated solution within the framework of CSCE is the most promising road to peace. It was pointed out during the visit that parallel mediation efforts could be detrimental to the peace process. Unified mediation efforts were requested.

The Russian Federation is actively engaged in establishing a cease-fire. All parties agree that the Russian Federation is playing an important role for the solution of the conflict in and around Nagorny Karabakh.